

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND

Congress provided \$150 billion to states and local governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Funds have already been allocated to states, territories, tribal, and local governments for them to use at their discretion. To find information on how much each prime recipient received and has left to spend, please visit [here](#).

GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Treasury Department gives States and local governments broad discretion in how they use the funds, provided that their expenditures meet ALL of the following statutory requirements:

- Expenditures must be for necessary costs incurred in response to the public health emergency or the secondary effects of COVID-19, such as the economic turmoil caused by the pandemic
- Expenditures must not be accounted for in the State or local government's budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, unless the previously accounted for expenditures are for activities that are "substantially different" than the expected use of funds in the budget; and
- Expenditures must be made between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021.

Note: Some local governments may have received CRF money through their state rather than as a direct allocation from the Treasury Department, and therefore may be subject to additional terms and conditions imposed by the State.

SUPPORT FOR TOURISM

According to an updated [FAQ](#) by the Treasury Department, as requested by U.S. Travel, funds can be used to help the tourism industry through the following means—

- Grants to small businesses to reimburse them for the cost of shutdown orders related to the pandemic.
- Grants to Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) to remarket the state or local government's convention facilities and tourism industry.
 - ✓ DMOs can use the money to publicize the resumption of business activities and steps taken to ensure a safe and healthy travel experience, which would be considered activities in response to the public health crisis.¹
 - ✗ DMOs cannot use the money to replace lost revenue or to fund a normal marketing campaign that would have been implemented regardless of the pandemic.²

Note: Each state may interpret Treasury's guidance on this subject differently. It is important to follow the legal advice of the state or local government seeding you the funds.

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HOW TO APPLY

- Interested parties can request financial assistance directly from states and eligible local governments.
- Please see our [CRF Webinar](#) for tips and other information to help guide you.
- We recommend that you ask both your state and local government for CRF assistance.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Coronavirus Relief Fund Website](#)
- [Treasury Department Guidance](#)
- [Treasury Department FAQ](#)
- [Treasury IG Reporting and Recordkeeping FAQ](#)

1. See question 45 in the [Treasury Department's FAQ](#).

2. For greater clarity on ineligible uses, please see Treasury IG's letters to [Iowa](#) and [Rhode Island](#).